

ARUBA TODAY

Aruba's ONLY English newspaper

Tuesday
May 9, 2023

T: 582-7800
www.arubatoday.com
facebook.com/arubatoday
instagram.com/arubatoday

The Ostrich Farm

Page 8

Debt options abound, but can Biden, McCarthy strike a deal?

By LISA MASCARO
AP Congressional Correspondent

WASHINGTON (AP) — The White House and Congress could strike a deal to raise the debt ceiling in exchange for budget cuts. Or they could agree to a stopgap measure to keep paying the nation's bills while negotiations continue. They also could let the negotiations unravel, sending the economy into chaos.

As President Joe Biden meets Tuesday with House Speaker Kevin McCarthy and other congressional leaders for the first time over the debt ceiling crisis, the options for easing out of the standoff are many. But the political incentive for compromise is harder to come by. There's no easy endgame ahead of a June 1 deadline to raise the debt ceiling or risk defaulting on the nation's \$31 trillion in debt.



Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen speaks on the U.S.-China economic relationship at Johns Hopkins University School of Advanced International Studies, Thursday, April 20, 2023, in Washington.

Continued on Page 2

Associated Press

Más de 130 vinos de España y el Mundo
More than 130 wines from Spain and the World

Sábados/Saturdays de 5.00 a 6.00 pm

20%
vinos / wines

XIXÓN
spanish restaurant

Aruba

Lo mejor de España en Aruba. The best of Spain in Aruba.

PASEO HERENCIA: J.E. IRAUSQUIN BLVD 382-A, LOCAL B 09
+297 592 8998 / aruba@xionspanishrestaurant.com




Amuse is back with a new concept

New Chef's Table Restaurant

6 Tables per night.

The Journey

TO CULINARY EXCELLENCE



Located at the Windmill in Palm Beach Monday to Friday at 7pm Reservation required.

 **+297 5650535**

Debt options abound, but can Biden, McCarthy strike a deal?

Continued from Front

"It's Congress' constitutional duty to act to prevent default," White House Press Secretary Karine Jean-Pierre said Monday. "That's what the president is going to be very clear about."

At Tuesday's first meeting, it's extremely unlikely there will be any quick resolution. Biden and the big four congressional leaders of the House and Senate will convene at the White House with neither side yet signaling a willingness to budge off its opening position.

Biden wants Congress to simply raise the debt limit without any strings attached, while Republicans led by McCarthy are insisting on budget cuts in exchange for any votes to allow more borrowing to pay the nation's bills.

More likely, Democratic president Biden and Republican House speaker McCarthy will at least be able to set aside their differences enough to launch a process for negotiations that could begin to form the contours of a deal to avert a true debt ceiling crisis.

But with tensions high and the outcome uncertain, some lawmakers are considering unprecedented proposals, even one that would allow Biden to bypass Congress, invoking his responsibilities under the 14th Amendment to simply raise the nation's debt limit on his own. That would be certain to face a court challenge.

Though the endgame is uncertain, the political terrain is familiar for the White House and Congress. The once routine vote to raise the debt ceiling has increasingly been wielded as powerful political leverage to extract policy priorities



President Joe Biden talks with House Speaker Kevin McCarthy, R-Calif., as he departs the Capitol following the annual St. Patrick's Day gathering, in Washington, March 17, 2023.

Associated Press

that otherwise would not be likely to become law. Republicans have put down their opening bid — a sweeping House-passed proposal that would slash \$4.8 trillion off the federal budget over a decade by rolling back spending to fiscal 2022 levels and capping future spending increases at 1% a year, resulting in steep cuts to programs and services.

The Republicans refuse to simply raise the debt limit on its own, and are demanding budget cuts and other party priorities. The House Republican-passed bill would drop millions of Americans from health care, food stamps and cash assistance programs by imposing additional work requirements that many would be unable to meet. And it would undo much of Biden's climate change agenda.

Senate Republicans are backing up their House Republican colleagues, announcing they will not advance "any bill that raises

the debt ceiling without substantive spending and budget reforms."

In a letter from Sen. Mike Lee, R-Utah, and signed by Senate Republican leader Mitch McConnell, the 43 GOP senators said they are "united behind the House Republican conference in support of spending cuts and structural budget reform as a starting point for negotiations on the debt ceiling."

Biden and Democrats have also dug in, refusing to debate over the debt ceiling — though they have opened the door to negotiations over spending levels as part of the regular budget process.

"We have to avoid default, period. Full stop," the House Democratic leader Hakeem Jeffries said over the weekend.

"We, of course, are open to having a discussion about what type of investments, what type of spending, what type of revenues are appropriate," Jeffries said. "That's a process that

is available to us right now." Time is short for any deal. Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen has said that come June 1, there may simply not be enough cash on hand to meet all of the nation's obligations. She noted the U.S. has never defaulted on its debt.

"Every option is a bad option," Yellen said Monday on CNBC.

The House and Senate arrive back at work Tuesday, but they are in session together just eight days before the Senate breaks for the Memorial Day recess the week of May 22 with the House set to recess the following week.

Both Biden and McCarthy have insisted they will not allow the country to default on its obligations.

What's different about this round of talks is that it's being led by McCarthy, debuting after his tumultuous battle to become House speaker.

To win the gavel, McCarthy made steep concessions to the hard right Freedom

Caucus and other conservatives who make up his slim majority, and who can threaten to oust the speaker if he negotiates a deal they are unwilling to accept.

While Biden had a willing partner in past budget showdowns negotiating with McConnell, the Senate Republican leader is keeping a lower profile enabling McCarthy to take the lead. But the threat hanging over McCarthy from his far-right flank could leave him unwilling or unable to strike a compromise with Biden.

Congress has been known to push this issue to the brink, but it has also proven its ability to buy time, by voting for stopgap measures to allow negotiations to continue.

In an earlier debt ceiling showdown a decade ago, Congress agreed to set up a "super committee" tasked with coming up with bipartisan spending reductions or facing automatic cuts — an idea that has been mentioned in another form this time.

It all means that while June 1 looms as a serious deadline, it may end up being just the first of several to come — a level of fiscal uncertainty that some experts have warned could rock the economy.

To stave off a crisis, House Democrats have pushed forward a process that would force a vote on a clean debt ceiling increase they prefer. But it's a cumbersome procedure that would be a longshot in the Senate, where Democrats have only a slim majority and need Republican support to advance most bills. Asked about invoking the 14th Amendment proposal, Biden said in an interview Friday that he's not there yet. □

U.S. to propose new rules for airline cancellations, delays

By DAVID KOENIG
AP Airlines Writer

The Biden administration is working on new regulations that would require airlines to compensate passengers and cover their meals and hotel rooms if they are stranded for reasons within the airline's control.

The White House said President Joe Biden and Transportation Secretary Pete Buttigieg would announce the start of the rulemaking process Monday.

The rulemaking pledge continues a push by the Democratic administration to require airlines to improve customer service, and it comes just weeks before the start of the peak summer travel season.

The aim of the rules would be, for the first time, to require airlines to pay compensation beyond a ticket refund and to cover expenses that consumers incur, including rebooking on another flight, if the airline causes a cancellation or significant delay. "When an airline causes a flight cancellation or delay, passengers should not foot the bill," Buttigieg said in a statement. Airline-caused cancellations include flights scrubbed for mechanical issues with the plane or lack of a crew.



Passengers wait in line to check in for their flights at Southwest Airlines service desk at LaGuardia Airport, on Dec. 27, 2022, in New York.

Airlines for America, which represents the biggest carriers, said in a statement that airlines have no incentive to delay or cancel flights. The trade group said more than half of cancellations in 2022 and 2023 have been caused by "extreme weather" or air traffic control outages.

"Carriers have taken responsibility for challenges within their control and continue working diligently to improve operational reliability," including hiring

more workers and reducing their schedules, the group said.

After the pandemic hit, airlines paid tens of thousands of workers to quit or retire early, but they have added about 118,000 workers since November 2020 and now have 5% more employees than before the pandemic, according to Transportation Department figures.

There is no certainty if or when the Transportation Department might pub-

lish final rules around new compensation for travelers. The rule-making process can take months or years. Currently, when an airline cancels a flight for any reason, consumers can demand a refund of the unused part of their ticket and certain extras that they might have paid to the airline, such as fees for checking a bag or getting a seat assignment. Airlines often try to persuade consumers to accept a travel voucher instead of a refund.

After widespread flight disruptions last summer, the Transportation Department posted an online dashboard that was designed to pressure the airlines to improve customer service. The site lets consumers check each airline's policy on refunds and compensation when flights are canceled or delayed.

Each of the 10 largest U.S. airlines quickly promised to provide cash or vouchers for meals when a cancellation forces passengers to wait at least three hours for another flight. Nine of the 10 all but Frontier Airlines also promised to pay for accommodations for passengers stranded overnight. Questions arose again around reimbursing consumers for out-of-pocket costs after Southwest Airlines canceled nearly 17,000 flights during a December meltdown in service.

The Transportation and Justice departments are investigating whether Southwest scheduled more flights than it realistically could handle. The Transportation Department says it is working with the airlines to reduce cancellations and delays this summer, when air travel could exceed pre-coronavirus pandemic records. □

Associated Press

U.S. backs study of safe injection sites, overdose prevention

By CARLA K. JOHNSON
AP Medical Writer

For the first time, the U.S. government will pay for a large study measuring whether overdoses can be prevented by so-called safe injection sites, places where people can use heroin and other illegal drugs and be revived if they take too much.

The grant provides more than \$5 million over four years to New York University and Brown University to study two sites in New York City and one opening next year in Providence, Rhode Island.

Researchers hope to enroll 1,000 adult drug users to study the sites' effects on overdoses, to estimate their

costs and to gauge potential savings for the health care and criminal justice systems. The universities announced the grant Monday. The money will not be used to operate the sites, the universities said.

With U.S. drug overdose deaths reaching nearly 107,000 in 2021, supporters contend safe injection sites, also called overdose prevention centers, can save lives and connect people with addiction treatment, mental health services and medical care.

Opponents worry the sites encourage drug use and that they will lead to the deterioration of surrounding neighborhoods.

"There is a lot of discussion

about overdose prevention centers, but ultimately, we need data to see if they are working or not, and what impact they may have on the community," said Dr. Nora Volkow, director of the National Institute on Drug Abuse, which awarded the grant.

Sites operate in 14 countries, including Canada, Australia and France, according to the Drug Policy Alliance, a group working for decriminalization and safe drug use policies.

In the U.S., New York City opened the first publicly recognized safe injection site in 2021 and Rhode Island became the first state to authorize them that year. States including Colorado,

Nevada and New Mexico have considered allowing them. The governors of California and Vermont

vetoed safe injection site bills last year, and Pennsylvania's Senate last week voted for a ban on them. □



Brian Hackel, right, an overdose prevention specialist, helps Steven Baez, a client suffering addiction, find a vein to inject intravenous drugs at an overdose prevention center, OnPoint NYC, in New York, Feb. 18, 2022.

Associated Press

Simulation suggests 2020 census missed many noncitizens

By **MIKE SCHNEIDER**
Associated Press

New results from a U.S. Census Bureau simulation indicate a significant number of noncitizens were missed in the 2020 census, a national head count during which the Trump administration tried to prevent people in the United States illegally from being tallied at all.

Some civil rights groups pointed to the bureau's latest findings as evidence that, despite the Trump administration's failure to exclude residents in the country illegally from the 2020 count altogether, the former president's push contributed to an undercount for some racial and ethnic minorities.

A simulated head count by the statistical agency utilized 31 types of administrative records from government agencies and third-party sources to produce estimates of the U.S. population on April 1, 2020 that could be compared to the survey-like responses used in the last official tally of every U.S. resident. The simulation was an experiment which doesn't change the results of the once-a-decade count of every U.S. resident that helps determine political power and the distribution of \$1.5 trillion



A briefcase of a census taker is seen as she knocks on the door of a residence, Aug. 11, 2020, in Winter Park, Fla.

in federal funding in the U.S. Almost a fifth of noncitizens found in the administrative records had addresses that couldn't be matched in the 2020 census, suggesting that "a significant fraction of noncitizens" were missed, according to the U.S. Census Bureau report released Friday. By comparison, that same figure was 5.4% for citizens. Using administrative records from government agencies that have records on immigration, wel-

fare programs, motor vehicle registrations and other data, the test tallied 2.3% more people than in the actual census in 2020 that produced a head count of 331 million U.S. residents, primarily because the simulation captured more noncitizens residing in the U.S., the report said.

The simulation was a test to see how good a job administrative records perform in counting historically undercounted groups like racial and ethnic minorities,

renters and young children. Its results actually bumped up the numbers for Hispanic and Black residents, two groups who were undercounted in the 2020 census, respectively, by 8.3 million people and 2.8 million people, the report said. The administrative records census produced estimates of 11.6 million people in the U.S. with an unknown legal status. Opponents have said Trump administration policies in 2019 and 2020 created a chilling effect

which likely deterred immigrants, Hispanics and others from participating in the 2020 census.

In 2019, the Trump administration attempted to add a citizenship question to the 2020 census questionnaire, but the U.S. Supreme Court blocked it. In the middle of the 2020 census, President Donald Trump directed the Census Bureau to exclude people in the country illegally from numbers used for divvying up congressional seats among the states. An influential GOP adviser had advocated excluding them from the apportionment process in order to favor Republicans and non-Hispanic whites. Trump's memo was rescinded when President Joe Biden arrived at the White House in January 2021, before the census figures were released.

The Black population in the 2020 census had a net undercount of 3.3%. The undercount was almost 5% for Hispanics, 5.6% for American Indians and Native Alaskans living on reservations and 0.84% for children under age 18.

Those undercounts were higher than in the 2010 census, though only the Hispanic count and tally of children had statistically significant differences from 2010 to 2020. □

Stalled gun bill advances in Texas after new mass shootings

By **ACACIA CORONADO**
and **JIM VERTUNO**
Associated Press

AUSTIN, Texas (AP) — Facing renewed calls for stricter gun control after a mass shooting near Dallas, a Republican-led Texas House committee advanced a bill Monday that would raise the purchase age for semi-automatic rifles from 18 to 21 even though the proposal has little or no chance of actually becoming law. The Select Committee on Community Safety voted 8-5, with two Republicans joining six Democrats, to advance the bill to the full House after protesters' chants of "Do Something!" echoed through the hall-

ways of the Capitol building in the country's largest red state. Some families

whose children were killed in the attack at Robb Elementary School in Uvalde

last year cried following the vote.

The measure is unlikely to become law, as Republican Gov. Greg Abbott has previously waved off the idea of allowing only people 21 or older to purchase guns like those used in many of the country's worst mass shootings, including Texas'. But the bill even getting and clearing a committee vote was unusual.

The bill had languished for weeks prior to the weekend shooting that left eight people dead at Allen Premium Outlets, a sprawling outdoor shopping center, and it getting a committee vote amounted to some-

thing of an about-face for Republicans.

Republican state Rep. Ryan Guillen, who chairs the House Select Committee on Community Safety, said Monday that he still believes there is not enough support in the Legislature for the bill to ultimately pass. He voted against the measure leaving his committee, which passed the bill on what was effectively the last possible day to so with time running out before the legislative session ends later this month.

When asked why the bill was suddenly coming up for a vote after weeks of inaction, Guillen said nothing had changed. □



Protesters gather at the Texas State Capitol in Austin, Texas, Monday, May 8, 2023, to call for tighter regulations on gun sales. Associated Press

China tells U.S. to 'reflect deeply' over downturn in ties

BEIJING (AP) — China's foreign minister told the U.S. ambassador on Monday that Washington is responsible for the downturn in relations between the two countries and must "reflect deeply" before ties can return to a healthy track, an official said.

Qin Gang's comments follow a suspension of serious dialogue on a range of issues between the world's largest economies, increasingly at odds over tariffs, attempts by Washington to deprive China of cutting-edge technology, and China's claims to self-governing Taiwan and large parts of the South and East China Seas.

China's Foreign Ministry quoted Qin as telling Ambassador Nicolas Burns that a "series of erroneous words and deeds by the U.S." since a meeting in November between U.S. President Joe Biden and Chinese leader Xi Jinping "have undermined the hard-won positive momentum of Sino-U.S. relations." "The U.S. side should reflect deeply, meet China half-way, and propel China-U.S. relations out of the difficulties and back on the right track," Qin was quoted as saying. The United States should "correct its understanding of China and



Chinese Foreign Minister Qin Gang speaks during the forum titled Chinese Modernization and the World held at The Grand Halls in Shanghai, on April 21, 2023.

Associated Press

return to rationality," Qin said, repeating his earlier accusation that the U.S. is attempting to suppress and contain China. Beijing routinely cites U.S. political and military support of Taiwan as infringing on its sovereignty.

Qin said ties had "grown icy" and the priority was to stabilize them "and avoid a downward spiral and unanticipated events."

The U.S. should stop "undermining China's sovereignty, security, and development interests," particularly

through support of Taiwan's independent identity, Qin said.

China says Taiwan must come under its rule, by force if necessary, while the United States says the relationship between the sides must be resolved peaceably. U.S. law requires it to treat threats to Taiwan, including a military blockade, as a matter of "grave concern," though it remains ambiguous under what conditions U.S. forces could be dispatched to defend the island.

Despite the lack of formal diplomatic relations, the U.S. is Taiwan's largest supplier of military hardware and diplomatic support, even while it continues to maintain relations with Beijing. Biden has been seen as going a step further by repeatedly saying that the U.S. would back Taiwan militarily, and America has been upgrading basing arrangements with the Philippines, located just south of Taiwan. U.S.-China military contacts have been on hold for years, and China's

top staff refused to answer a call from Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin after then-Speaker of the House of Representatives Nancy Pelosi visited Taiwan last year. China retaliated for the visit by staging a naval and air force blockade of Taiwan and cutting off channels of communication with the U.S. on issues from environmental protection to maritime security.

At a daily briefing Monday, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Wang Wenbin described the meeting between Qin and Burns as "a normal diplomatic arrangement."

In a tweet, Burns said he met with Qin and "discussed challenges in the U.S.-China relationship and the necessity of stabilizing ties and expanding high-level communication."

In comments to a U.S. think tank last week, Burns said Washington has been consistent in its approach toward Taiwan and insists that "any resolution of the (cross-Taiwan Strait) differences has to be peaceful."

"We hope that the government here in China will commit itself to a peaceful resolution of the dispute," Burns said in an online discussion with the Washington-based Stimson Center. □

Out-of-control wildfires cause evacuations in western Canada

EDMONTON, Alberta (AP) — Fire crews battled wildfires threatening communities in western Canada on Sunday as cooler temperatures and a bit of rain brought some relief, but officials warned the reprieve came only in some areas. Officials in Alberta said there were 108 active fires in the province and the number of evacuees grew to about 29,000, up from approximately 24,000 Saturday, when a province-wide state of emergency was declared.

Two out-of-control wildfires in neighboring British Columbia also caused some people to leave their homes, and officials

warned that they expected high winds to cause the blazes to grow bigger in the next few days.

Provincial officials in Alberta said the weather forecast was favorable for the next few days, with small amounts of rain and overcast conditions. But they cautioned that hot and dry conditions were predicted to return within a few days. "People have called this season certainly unprecedented in recent memory because we have so many fires so spread out," Christie Tucker with Alberta Wildfire said at a briefing. "It's been an unusual year."

Colin Blair, executive director of the Alberta Emergen-

cy Management Agency, said accurate damage reports were not yet available because conditions made it difficult to assess the situation. There were of buildings destroyed in the town of Fox Lake, including 20 homes, a police station and a store.

In northeastern British Columbia, officials urged residents to evacuate the areas around two out-of-control wildfires near the Alberta border, saying there were reports of some people staying behind.

"This is impeding the response and putting their lives and the lives of firefighters at risk," said Leonard Hiebert, chairman of

the Peace River Regional District.

A third fire in British Columbia was burning out of control 700 kilometers (430

miles) to the south, in the Teare Creek region, and some residents near the village of McBride were evacuated. □



In this photo provided by the Government of Alberta Fire Service, a burned section of forest in the area near Edson, Alberta, smolders, Saturday, May 6, 2023.

Associated Press

U.N. urges Afghanistan's Taliban to end floggings, executions

RAHIM FAIEZ

Associated Press

ISLAMABAD (AP) — A U.N. report on Monday strongly criticized the Taliban for carrying out public executions, lashings and stonings since seizing power in Afghanistan, and called on the country's rulers to halt such practices.

In the past six months alone, 274 men, 58 women and two boys were publicly flogged in Afghanistan, according to a report by the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan, or UNAMA.

"Corporal punishment is a violation of the Convention against Torture and must cease," said Fiona Frazer, the agency's human rights chief. She also called for an immediate moratorium on executions.

The Taliban foreign ministry said in response that Afghanistan's laws are determined in accordance with Islamic rules and guidelines, and that an overwhelming majority of Afghans follow those rules.

"In the event of a conflict between international human rights law and Islamic law, the government is obliged to follow the Islamic law," the ministry said in a statement.

The Taliban began carrying out such punishments shortly after coming to power almost two years ago, despite initial promises of a more moderate rule than



Afghan men, who their fingers have been cut off by Taliban fighters as a punishment for voting, rest in a hospital in Herat, west of Kabul, Afghanistan, Sunday, June 15, 2014.

Associated Press

during their previous stint in power in the 1990s.

At the same time, they have gradually tightened restrictions on women, barring them from public spaces, such as parks and gyms, in line with their interpretation of Islamic law. The restrictions have triggered an international uproar, increasing the country's isolation at a time when its economy has collapsed and worsening a humanitarian crisis.

Monday's report on corporal punishment documents Taliban practices both before and after their return to power in August 2021, when they seized the

capital of Kabul as U.S. and NATO forces withdrew after two decades of war.

The first public flogging following the Taliban takeover was reported in October 2021 in the northern Kapisa province, the report said. In that case, a woman and man convicted of adultery were publicly lashed 100 times each in the presence of religious scholars and local Taliban authorities, it said. In December 2022, Taliban authorities executed an Afghan convicted of murder, the first public execution since they took power the report said.

The execution, carried out with an assault rifle by the

victim's father, took place in the western Farah province before hundreds of spectators and top Taliban officials. Zabihullah Mujahid, the top government spokesman, said the decision to carry out the punishment was "made very carefully," following approval by three of the country's highest courts and the Taliban supreme leader, Mullah Hibatullah Akhundzada.

There has been a significant increase in the number and regularity of judicial corporal punishment since November when Mujahid repeated comments by the supreme leader

about judges and their use of Islamic law in a tweet, the report said.

Since that tweet, UNAMA documented at least 43 instances of public lashings involving 274 men, 58 women and two boys.

A majority of punishments were related to convictions of adultery and "running away from home," the report said. Other purported offenses included theft, homosexuality, consuming alcohol, fraud and drug trafficking.

In a video message, Abdul Malik Haqqani, the Taliban's appointed deputy chief justice, said last week that the Taliban's Supreme Court has issued 175 so-called retribution verdicts since taking power, including 79 floggings and 37 stonings. Haqqani said the Taliban leadership is committed to carrying out such sentences.

After their initial overthrow in the U.S. invasion of 2001, the Taliban continued to carry out corporal punishment and executions in areas under their control while waging an insurgency against the U.S.-backed former Afghan government, the report said.

UNAMA documented at least 182 instances when the Taliban carried out their own sentences during the height of their insurgency between 2010 and August 2021, resulting in 213 deaths and 64 injuries. □

Fire deep in gold mine in southern Peru kills 27 workers



Relatives of trapped miners wait outside the SERMIGOLD mine in Arequipa, Peru, Sunday, May 7, 2023.

Associated Press

LIMA, Peru (AP) — A fire broke out deep in a gold mine in southern Peru and killed at least 27 workers during an overnight shift, Peruvian authorities reported.

The Yanaquihua mining company said in a statement that 175 workers had been safely evacuated after the accident, which happened late Friday or early Saturday. It said the 27 dead worked for a contractor that specializes in mining.

Government officials said the cause of the fire was

under investigation. Some news reports said preliminary investigations indicated an explosion might have been set off by a short circuit in a part of the mine about 100 meters (330 feet) below the surface.

Relatives of the victims were brought by buses to the mine in Yanaquihua in the Arequipa region, where they were briefed by security agents. Some sat in front of posters at the entrance to the mine to wait for the bodies of their loved ones.

Marcelina Aguirre said her

husband was among the dead. She said he had told her there were risks at the mine.

"We are very worried, very sad we are, to lose a husband, leaving two abandoned children," she said. The Public Ministry of Arequipa's Fiscal District said investigators were working to clarify what happened. "During the investigation, the Prosecutor's Office will determine the cause of the tragic event and the responsibilities of those involved," its statement said. □

According to the law, the Three Rivers projects has a suspended construction permit

(Oranjestad)—It was in November 2019 when the minister of Tourism, Dangui Oduber, announced the “groundbreaking” Secrets Baby Beach Resort in Baby Beach, a project that included the construction of an all-inclusive hotel with 600 rooms, according to ROPV.

Last Saturday, a group of residents from Sero Colorado informed through a press release that by law, the Three Rivers project has a suspended construction permit and because of this, there is no authorization for continuing to construct the ‘Secrets’ Hotel.

It has been indicated in the press release that the judge of the Administrative Court Lar, Mr. W.C.E. Winfield considered the petition made by the residents for Lar to order the government to suspend the construction permit not necessary, because in article 59 of the Building and Housing Ordinance, it states that the moment there is an appeal for this permit, construction must be put on hold until further notice.

As such, the fact that the government decided to allow this construction to continue, without attending to the objections of the residents nearby is against the law and therefore also create unnecessary financial risks for the community of Aruba as well as the developers.

A total of ten citizens, represented then by Maritza Boyce, turned up at Lar after the minister of Territorial Developments, Infrastructure and the Environment at that time turned in the permit for the construction of the hotel. This permit was granted on May 28th, 2020 and the citizens have submitted their objections to the permit on the 21st of October 2020.

However, the minister had rejected the objection on March 9th, 2021 and the citizens have subsequently filed an appeal against this on April 16th, 2021. They informed that the court has stated in its first sentence that as long as the minister in charge does not respond to the objection of the citizens, the construction must be put on hold.

The government has stated, based on the decree of March 9th 2021, that it does not consider the objection admissible, which resulted in the citizens to file an appeal at the Administrative Court on April 15th, 2021. The judge stated in his sentence that he does consider the residents to have a valid reason in two of their arguments and has instructed the government to make a decision on the objection within a three-week time span.

However, the government and Three Rivers have both appealed this sentence and the court has yet to give another on May 24th, 2023. Furthermore, the government has decided on May 5th 2022 that the objections considered as valid by Lar had no basis.

Through letters, the citizens have protested against this decision by the government and in doing so, has brought attention to the authorities that they must take the right steps so that this project does not contradict the law. This means that they must halt construction while the appeal of the citizens are being processed, particularly because not at any moment has the government actually entered in dialogue with the citizens. Lastly, the citizens have signaled that they have once again appealed to the Court on April 19th, 2023.



The petition at Lar was to suspend the construction permit. Because this was not suspended based on article 59 of Building and Housing Ordinance, the court has considered the protested have complied with all requirements of the appeal.

The government and Three Rivers have also argued that there is no urgent interest with their appeal, seeing as they knew since May 2022 that the company, with the approval of the government, has continued with the construction, which at this point is already 45% complete.

They have denied that the plan does not comply with all its requirements and they reject the notion that according to article 59, the construction permit is suspended.

The residents have said that a part of the building does not match with nearby houses and overall ambience. The construction also affects the air and light quality for the residents and that it is against the ROPV law (Planning Territorial Ordinance), in which it is only allowed a maximum of 600 rooms and not 900.

At that time, Ms. Maritza Boyce has stated that the construction plans do not comply with the reasonable insistence of “success”, and that the building surpasses its maximum height, because there has

been poor attention paid to the 4-meter space underground, which is at the level of the cliff.

Moreover, the residents have argued that the “construction plan”, based on its locations or system of construction, will be a huge hindrance to the environment. Furthermore, they have argued that after construction, considering its location and its forms or system of construction, will affect the view and privacy of the inhabitants of the area. The plans show that the building is too close to their plots and that the building is more than one story high. In other words, this will be a very big structure.

The most plausible argument was the fact that project goes against the ROPV law and the construction plan indicates a project of 600 all-inclusive rooms, plus an additional 300 standard rooms. This brings the total to 900 rooms, while ROPV states that the hotel is only permitted a maximum of 600 rooms at this specific location.

Finally, the judge concluded that article 59 means that the construction permit of Three Rivers is suspended. As such, they are not allowed to continue with the construction. The fact that this is already 45% complete is their argument that the inhabitants have no urgent reason to be against the plans.

The minister of Territorial Ordinance and Infrastructure was represented by the Minister of Judicial Affairs, and Three Rivers was represented by Mr. Reinkemeyer and Mr. Ruiz.

Before construction even began, the residents nearby have asked for more information on this project, but they have received transparency from the company or government's end. In their opinion, the developer must be careful with the traffic that this hotel will bring in the area. The ROPV also states that during construction time, the developer must be mindful of the constant noises that can become a nuisance to the residents and visitors of Sero Colorado. □

The Grand Fish

The Best Fresh Seafood on The Island

Free Glass of Wine with this coupon!!

Open from 11am till 10pm Closed on Tuesday

Tel. +297-280.1515 | Taratata Road 15 unit #1

The Ostrich Farm

Matividiri– One of the most entertaining vacation activities is a visit to the Ostrich Farm, a popular stopover on most island jeep tours.

Locals and visitors enjoy the guided ostrich tour at the farm and features a well-stocked locally crafted and produced Art Boutique. The highlight of the visit is always the fun interaction with the resident ostriches and emus, including a trip to the incubators and the bird kindergarten, housing baby ostriches, baby emus, chicken and ducks, and even a land turtle!

It was a National Geographic moment when on cue Mr. Ostrich flapped his wings excitedly and poked around the ground with his bill, triggering Mrs. Ostrich who ran around in circles, flapped

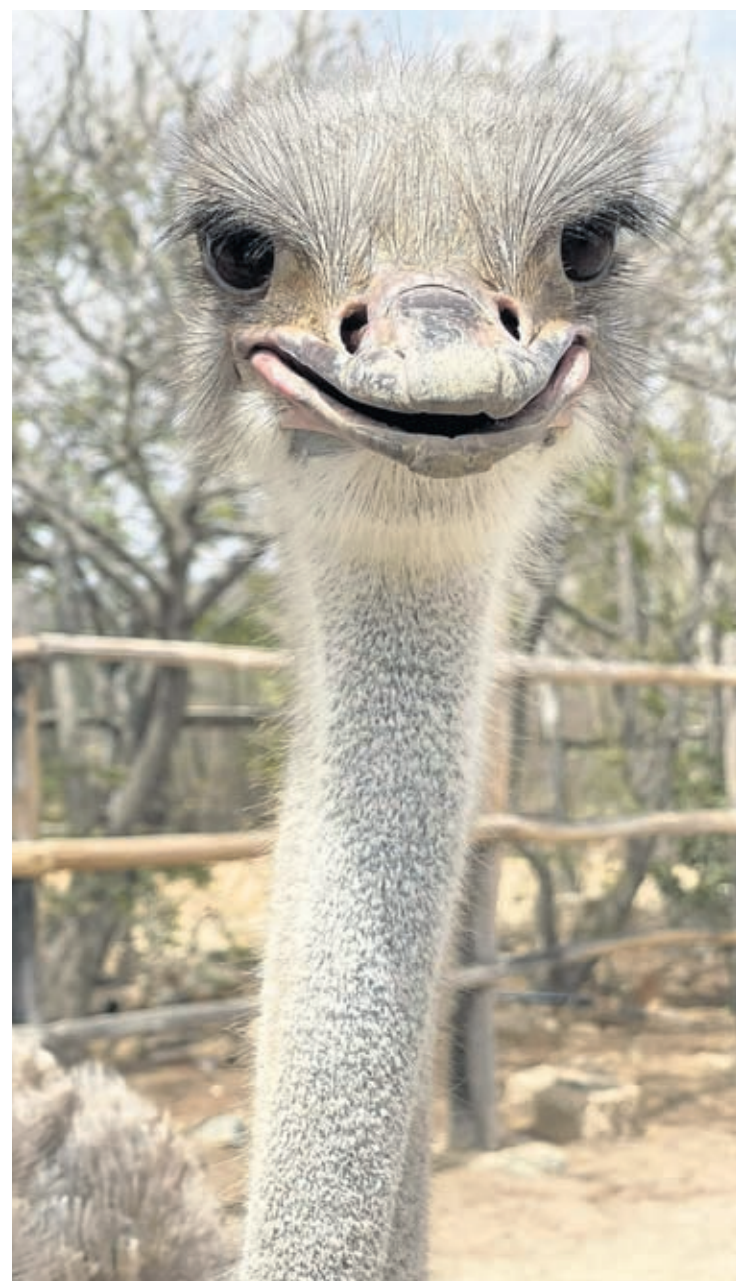


her wings and also poked around, before collapsing on the ground in a heap of feathers, allowing him to mount her, shaking, winding and spiraling his head in all direction!

Mr. Ostrich concluded his unexpected performance with a loud honking, his eyes rolling, then got up in a huff to nonchalantly strut away, leaving his wife and the scrutiny of our cameras. It was a surprise reality TV moment, and not usually included in the regular program. Feeding the Ostriches is however always on the program, and they are eternally hungry, and fun!

Tours are available daily every half hour from 10– 3pm. No reservations needed for small groups. ☐

Matividiri 57, Open daily from 10:00 AM till 4:00 PM
Telephone: 5859630
For more information go to the website: www.arubaostrichfarm.com



Aruba will host the first conference on climate and energy “Caribbean Climate & Energy Conference (CCEC)” *The Aruban government welcomes all delegations*

Oranjestad - Aruba along with The Netherlands is organizing the first Caribbean Climate & Energy Conference (CCEC) that will take place from the 10th to the 12th of May in Aruba.

Seeing how the small islands are vulnerable to the changes in the climate and the negative effects

that are already being experienced, Aruba and The Netherlands see a need in promoting cooperation in climate action between the small islands worldwide, organizing for the first time a conference on this topic.

The Aruban governments vision is to transition to renewable energy. At the

moment Aruba is at 17% renewable energy and have to reach a 35 percentile by 2024. By the year 2023 the island should be at 50% renewable energy. This is the way Aruba plans to contribute to limiting the global warming of 1.5 celsius.

With the invitation of the Prime Minister of Aruba and the Minister of Climate and Energy from The Netherlands Rob Jetten, representatives of various different countries and organizations will meet at Aruba during these dates. Representatives of the Caribbean region, stakeholders, islands in the pacific, organizations of United Nations, knowledge institutes and financial institutes will also be present at the conference.

The Program will consist of various parts, with the first day focusing on the transition of climate and energy in the Dutch Kingdom as well as discussing important points in terms of cooperation to achieve the climatic goals of Paris 2030. Aruba, Curacao, Bonaire, Saba, Saint Marten, Saint Eustatius and The Netherlands will represent in this area.

The second day of the conference will focus on the international orientation. After this, a wide panel of different countries and organizations will talk about the climate action that is necessary for all islands in the world. The main goal is to share the best practices and create more awareness on what kind of climate action there is

on these islands and how effective cooperation between these islands can be. Mexico, Marshall Islands, Grenada, Suriname, Panama, Belize, St. Marten, St. Eustatius, Saba, Curacao and Bonaire have already confirmed attendance.

On the last day of the conference the focus will be on the developments and efforts in Aruba in regards to the transition of energy and climate. There will be various presentations about ongoing projects and the opportunity to talk about where Aruba stands and where Aruba will be going in the transition of climate and energy in the future.

Aruba will also showcase other projects like Eagle LNG, Windpark and HydrogenValley. ☐



BINGO IS BACK EVERY THURSDAY, SATURDAY & SUNDAY!

2X *Double Point Tuesday!*

**Earn
DOUBLE POINTS
all day long!**

Use your Players' Club card
to play our slots and we'll
DOUBLE your points!

**THE SHOPS
AT ALHAMBRA CASINO**

Offering a wide variety of Retail & Dining Outlets,
Salon & Spa Services, Souvenirs and more.

Dunkin Donuts | Baskin Robbins | Fusion Piano & Wine Bar
Hungry Piranha | Twist of Flavors | Juan Valdez Café

The Brownstone Ribs & Seafood
Coming Soon: Auntie Anne's Pretzels

Alhambra
CASINO AND SHOPS

Open daily 10am to 3am | J.E. Irausquin Blvd #47 | 583.5000 | casinoalhambra.com

Play Responsibly. Visit www.gamblersanonymous.org if you or someone you know has a gambling problem.



Leatherback Sea Turtle Season has started

The Leatherback Sea Turtles nesting in Aruba don't live in the Caribbean, but in the Northern part of the Atlantic Ocean, as far as Nova Scotia, Canada.

But they are born on Aruba's beaches. After 20 – 30 years they reach maturity and then return to their natal beach to nest during the turtle nesting season (March – July). It is very impressive to see a huge sea turtle coming ashore, enjoy the sight, but make sure that the turtle does not see you! Stay out of her sight at a distance of at least 10 meters.

The picture was taken at Eagle Beach, last Sunday early morning. Normally sea turtle females will nest at night. All species of sea turtles are endangered and need our protection.

What you can do to protect sea turtles:

Lights out for sea turtles. Nighttime activities and artificial lighting may deter adult females from nesting. So PLEASE keep all lights off, including flashlights, flash photography and video equipment. "Sea turtles dig the dark"

Ask your hotel manager to turn off or minimize the lights that are visible on the beach in front of the resort. Close the curtains of your room at night to prevent light shining on the beach.

Do not drive on beaches. Not all turtle nests on all the beaches around Aruba are marked. Vehicles (4x4, quads) can crush the eggs and will compact the sand. Driving on a beach is not good for the condition of the sand (and for our own condition it is better to walk!)

Do not litter. Do not leave any plastic cups, straws, bags, balloons on the beach. The wind will blow it into the sea. A floating plastic bag is easily mistaken for a jellyfish, the Leatherback Sea Turtle's favorite food.

Remove obstacles from the beach. Obstacles as beach furniture or recreational equipment may cause nesting females to abort their nesting attempt or may even trap them. So don't leave any beach chairs at night unat-

tended close to the sea but make a stack as far as possible away from the water.

Do not disturb a nesting sea turtle. Do not attempt to touch the turtle but stay at a respectful distance (at least 10 meters). Do allow the turtle to complete the full nesting process (about two hours) and don't be in her way when she returns to the sea.

Do call Turtugaruba (24-hour Turtle Hotline: (297) 5929393, Follow Turtugaruba at www.facebook.com/Turtugaruba).

If you witness a sea turtle, or if you see turtle crawl marks, during a late evening or early morning stroll on the beach please do call Turtugaruba. Thanks a lot! □



Aruba Today is delighted to share to its readers a new segment called "Beauty and the Beach", where we take a minute to honor our guests who have decided to spend their vacation on our beautiful and warm island.

In this edition, we'd like to give a shout out to **Michael and Emily from New York**. They said they love the beach and the people. Aruba is always proud to host all families and guests. We at Aruba Today encourage any visitor of the island to send in their pictures and/or messages; who knows? You might get on the cover!

This segment is sponsored by Alhambra Casino and Shops.

Another Treasure of Aruba's Beaches: Sea Glass!

NOORD - It is hard to imagine this happening today, but years ago people dumped all kinds of refuse straight into the ocean, including old cars, and their household garbage, which of course included lots of glass. Over the next 30 years the pounding waves cleaned the beach, by breaking down everything but glass and pottery. The pounding waves washed the trash up and down, back and forth. Tons of polished, broken glass pieces were created by the pounding surf. These smoothened, colored glass particles then settled along the sea shore in millions, and that is why you can find these beautiful and colorful pieces on the north shore beaches of Aruba.

Especially on the strip on white sand between the famous "Natural Bridge" and the huge red anchor close to "Grapefield" beach you will be able to find your own pieces of sea glass. The sea glass that was created is the product of a very long and interesting process. It can take anywhere from 10 to 30 years to make sea glass. The name for any piece of glass that finds its way to the ocean and tumbles around in the water long enough is "Sea glass. The colorful pieces of glass are being used for decora-



tion, handcrafts and jewelry!

Once glass makes its way into the ocean, the glass is broken up into shards and is tumbled around in the water, where sand and other

rocks act like sandpaper to smooth out its rough edges. Sometimes as the sea glass is passed through fire, it becomes fire glass, the rarest of sea glass with certain inclusions, just like precious

gems. For years, the water beat against the different kinds of trash being dumped. Glass, household appliances and even motor parts were discarded on the beach. The waves and weather conditions wore down the overwhelming amount of garbage in the water, creating millions of beautiful smooth rocks. It's hard to believe the short-sighted mistakes we

were making that could have potentially ruined these beautiful beaches. But thanks to natural processes, the ocean transformed the trash into the sea glass. Each colored gem on the beach has its own story. The ruby red glass stones are typically from old car tail-lights.

Then, the sapphire rocks are the remnants of broken apothecary bottles. The most common and the easiest to find are the brown (Amstel & Polar beer), green (Heineken & Balashi beer) and clear glass which are the soft much loved "soft drink" bottles. If you like to see the sea glass for yourself, and be in awe of the power of nature, rent a car or jeep and go explore our deserted beaches on the north side of the island. Make it a fun family day!

Even if we didn't mean to pollute the Beaches how we did, it is inspiring to see just how the earth can correct our mistakes.

Funny, how trash can change into treasures!

Everybody knows that you are not allowed to take local shells home, but the people working at the airport have no problem you taking sea glass home. A few of those pieces make great souvenirs. You can place them in a wine glass or large bottle for decoration and every time you look at it a smile will light up your face thinking back of your unforgettable Aruba vacation! ☐



Rudsy de Kort: “I firmly believe in education, but even more than that, I believe in doing what you love”

(Oranjestad)—Rudselyne de Kort, better known as “Rudsy” by her family and friends, is a 30-year-old recent graduate at the University of Aruba with a Masters in Law. She currently works as a jurist at Richbar Attorney and Corporate Advisors, while she waits to give her oath as a lawyer. She sat down with our reporter and shared a bit about her life, her studies and the different aspects of her life which molded her into the person she is today.

Since childhood, she was involved in the world of entertainment. She danced, modeled, and was once a television presenter. Through this, she got the opportunity to travel abroad and represent Aruba in beauty pageants and dance competitions. Besides this, Rudsy loved sports too. She used to play soccer and volleyball. She was also busy with different activities and this was a part of her life she really enjoyed.

During her years in higher education, Rudsy was ac-

tive in different activities as well. Once she graduated high school, she went to Flagler College in Florida, where she remained active in the school's dance team and volunteer work at the Enactus Organization. This organization focused more on her study, which at the time was Business Administration.

After Rudsy received her Bachelor's degree, she wanted to first go back to Aruba and then continue her Masters in The Netherlands. However, due to family reasons, she decided to stay in Aruba.

She then paid a visit to the University of Aruba to see in which direction she can go in terms of her studies. Law was something that she was always interested in.

“I thought, let me try one year to see how it goes, and it went great. My grades were very high and I loved the challenge it gave me. I thought, well if it's going really well and I like it, why not just keep going,” she expressed.

She remarks that she had no plans to do this study, and during her last year, she worked as an intern at the firm she currently works at. They contacted her to do a two-month internship program, which went very well, and they asked her to stay and work as a jurist assistant. For more than a year, up until she graduated in January, she worked in that positions and after she graduated, they offered her a job as a jurist, until she receives her new title as a lawyer.

“It wasn't something I planned, it just happened. But it was something that I just grew more interested in since the day I started,” she said.

Rudsy is currently studying another career. She explained that she is not necessarily changing her career, but she personally feels like she wanted to finish her studies at Flagler College.

She came to find out that the UA had masters in busi-



ness administration, which lasts two years. Because of this, she grew interest in finishing her masters in business administration.

Rudsy shared that the great thing about this is that the office in which she works specializes in corporate law, which means that her masters in business administration can go hand in hand with her masters in law.

As mentioned already, Rudsy has been active since childhood. She highlighted that this helped her become the person she is today, above all in sports and dance. These were activities that really helped her become disciplined.

“If you have a goal, you have to work hard for it. This surely reflects in studies, especially during times when I was struggling with my first Masters study. At a certain point I wondered if this was really for me. Sports and dance helped me a lot with this, especially during competition seasons: sometimes you have to sacrifice fun.”

At an older age, Rudsy started doing cross fit. Through this, she was introduced to the sport of Olympic weightlifting. She shared that till this day, this is something she loves doing, even though she doesn't

practice much anymore. She hopes to start again in the future.

With barely a year's worth of training, Rudsy ended up in second place in the national competition, which was a huge deal for her, because she had only started it as a way to distract herself. Her hard work reflected in her progress and this is what made it interesting for her.

In terms of the future, Rudsy shared that in ten years' time, she sees herself working in her field with more experience and more knowledge. Law is something very complex; there are many aspects to it and she hopes to learn as much as she can. She expressed that she has an entrepreneurial spirit too, and she hopes to balance this with her profession in the future.

She ends the interview with a final message to the younger generation: “I firmly believe in education, but even more than that, I believe in doing what you love. It's true, you do need a plan and you do have to work hard, but the important thing is that you do something you really like and see what you can with it. Most people who changed the world were people who followed their passion,” she stated. □



CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

- 1 Puts in the oven
- 6 Exams
- 11 River bend
- 12 Snow house
- 13 Led to opportunities
- 15 Morse bit
- 16 Calendar box
- 17 Court
- 18 Disgusted
- 20 Kyoto setting
- 23 Plumbing conduits
- 27 Full range
- 28 Battery unit
- 29 Yard plus a bit
- 31 Snug
- 32 Express stop
- 34 Cart puller
- 37 Taxi
- 38 Debt note
- 41 United in the face of a challenge
- 44 Less
- 45 Find charming
- 46 Borders
- 47 Sub sounder

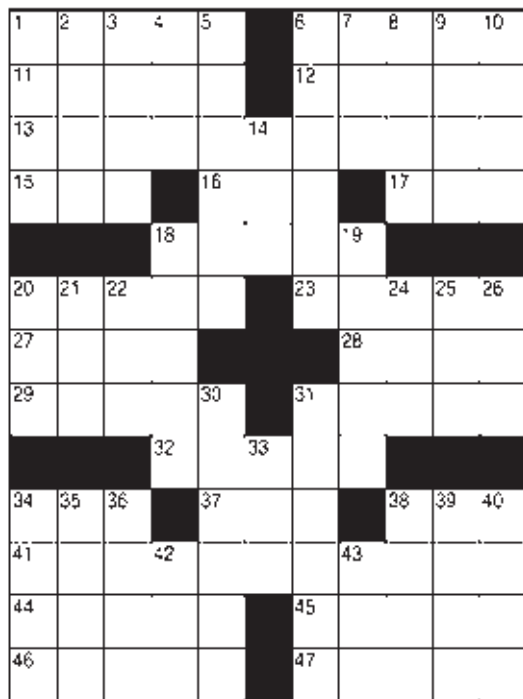
DOWN

- 1 Car part
- 2 Trade fair
- 3 Aid illegally
- 4 Shipping weight
- 5 Stockholm setting
- 6 Neaten the room
- 7 Sense of self
- 8 Leisurely
- 9 Matador's foe
- 10 Mediocre
- 14 Pop
- 18 Disconcerted
- 19 Turning point
- 20 Traffic snarl



Yesterday's answer

- 21 Had lunch
- 22 Cook's need
- 24 Small dog, for short
- 25 Middle-earth resident
- 26 Pig's digs
- 30 School break
- 31 Hooded snakes
- 33 Spot to jot
- 34 Peak
- 35 Glided
- 36 Musical number
- 38 Privy to
- 39 Gumbo vegetable
- 40 Manipulative one
- 42 Take to court
- 43 Footaraw



AXYDLBAXR
is LONGFELLOW

One letter stands for another. In this sample, A is used for the three L's. X for the two O's, etc. Single letters, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each day the code letters are different.

5-9 CRYPTOQUOTE

A N N S Y P F X Z K S , D B A Y J U
R U D R A Y S U N P U A N P F
N X R M Z K A U T Z K U , C Y M W D U Z R
M W U K W Y U J N X R M Z K A U ,
— L Z K S O Z Z T

Yesterday's Cryptquote: TO DESCRIBE MY MOTHER WOULD BE TO WRITE ABOUT A HURRICANE IN ITS PERFECT POWER. - MAYA ANGELOU

Kimberly Palmer: How to make summer camp more affordable

By KIMBERLY PALMER of NerdWallet

To create a fun but affordable summer for her daughters, ages 11 and 13, Flossie McCowald plans out camps well in advance. The Pennsylvania resident snags early bird discounts, takes advantage of a church-based sleepaway camp that offers scholarships and leverages sibling discounts.

"Every little bit helps," says McCowald, who is the founder of SuperMom-Hacks.com, where she writes about parenting.

That's especially true when camp is more expensive than ever. "We're in an inflationary environment, and camp is no exception," says Tom Rosenberg, president and CEO of the American Camp Association, which represents



In this Oct. 3, 2009 photo, a Boy Scout, left, works with an instructor on the archery field at Boy Scout camp at Camp Minsi in Pocono Summit, Pa.

Associated Press

camps and industry professionals. He adds that camps are facing price increases across every major cost category, including staffing, insurance and transportation. The ACA says that according to responses it collected

from members nationwide in 2022, on average day camp costs \$88 a day and overnight camp costs \$173 a day, while some camps are free, and most offer need-based financial aid to low-income families. □

Banks report tougher credit standards in wake of failures

By CHRISTOPHER RUGABER AP Economics Writer



The seal of the Board of Governors of the United States Federal Reserve System is displayed in the ground at the Marriner S. Eccles Federal Reserve Board Building in Washington, Feb. 5, 2018.

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — A Federal Reserve report Monday showed that banks raised their lending standards for business and consumer loans in the aftermath of three large bank failures, a trend that could slow the economy in coming months. The report, known as the senior loan officers survey, asked banks if they have tightened their lending standards by taking steps such as demanding higher credit scores, charging higher interest rates, or other moves that altogether would make it harder for businesses and consumers to obtain loans. □

Honey Dolls
MASSAGE AND ESCORT SERVICE

Beautiful Latin Girls
Pick-up & Delivery

Serving Men - Couple - Women - All Genders

+297 565-9535

WWW.PLEASUREINARUBA.COM

Aruba Divi Phoenix
Palm Beach
1 BR week 18 and 19
On the 5 th floor building 6
With 27 weeks remain 10
can be
Accelerate
Price :\$8 K each
Call : 011-297-630-1307
johnnypaes@gmail.com
www.halleytimetravelaruba.online

Classifieds

Renaissance ocean suites

Private islands
1 BR week 29 and 30 room # 2508
Garden view
1 BR WK 31 room 2336
Harbor/ ocean view
Price : \$ 10 K all 3 weeks
Call : 011-297-630-1307
johnnypaesch@gmail.com
www.halleytimetravelaruba.online

Renaissance ocean suites

Private islands
1 BR WK # 34 ,35,36
Room # 2518
Harbor / ocean view
Price : \$ 10 K all 3 weeks
Call : 011-297-630-1307
johnnypaesch@gmail.com
www.halleytimetravelaruba.online

Marriott surf club

Palm beach
Platinum season
2 BR Ocean side \$ 19 K
2 BR Ocean view \$ 18 K
2 BR Garden view \$ 17 K
Gold season
2 BR Ocean Front \$ 18 K
Call : 011-297-630-1307
johnnypaesch@gmail.com
www.halleytimetravelaruba.online

Marriott Ocean Club

Palm beach
Gold season
1 BR Ocean View
Price : \$ 6,5K
Call:011-297-630-1307
johnnypaesch@gmail.com
www.halleytimetravelaruba.online

Ambassador suites

Eagle beach
1 BR WK # 16 room # 1432 \$4,5 K
1 BR WK # 16 /17room # 1227 \$3,6 K each
Call : 011-297-630-1307
johnnypaesch@gmail.com
www.halleytimetravelaruba.online

Ambassador suites

Eagle beach
1 BR WK # 17 room1232 \$ 3,6 K
1 BR WK # 17 room1226 \$ 3,6 K
1 BR WK # 17/18 room1326 \$ 4,5 K each
1 BR WK # 17 room # 1327 \$ 4,5 K
1 BR WK # 17 room1431 \$ 4,5 K
1 BR WK # 17 room 1434 \$ 4,5 K
1 BR WK # 17 room1328 \$ 4,5 K
Call :011-297-630-1307
johnnypaesch@gmail.com

Ambassador suites

Eagle beach
1 BR WK # 18 room1330 \$ 4500
1 BR WK # 18 room1335 \$ 4500
1 BR WK # 18 room1333 \$ 4500
1 BR WK # 18 room1427 \$ 4500
Call : 011-297-630-1307
johnnypaesch@gmail.com
www.halleytimetravelaruba.online

Ambassador suites

Eagle beach
1 BR WK # 19 room # 1230 \$3,6 K
1 BR WK # 19 room # 1234 \$3,6 K
1 BR WK # 19 room # 1329 \$4,5 K
1 BR WK # 19 room # 1426 \$4,5 K
1 BR WK # 19 room # 1428 \$4,5 K
1 BR WK # 19 room # 1432 \$4,5 K
Call:011-297-630-1307
johnnypaesch@gmail.com

Ambassador suites

Eagle beach
1 BR WK # 20 room # 1128 \$4 K
1 BR WK # 20 room # 1134 \$4 K
1 BR WK # 20 room # 1433 \$4 K
1 BR WK # 20 room # 1335 \$4,5K
1 BR WK # 20 room # 1428 \$4,5K
Call:011-297-630-1307
Johnnypaesch@gmail.com
www.halleytimetravelaruba.online

Casa Del Mar

Eagle beach
2 BR WK # 18/19 room # 1217 \$ 7 K each
2 BR WK # 18 room # 1511 \$ 7,5 K
2 BR WK # 18 room # 1209 \$ 5 K
2 BR WK # 18 room # 1219 \$ 8 K
2 BR WK # 18 room # 1317 \$ 8 K
Call:011-297-630-1307
johnnypaesch@gmail.com
www.halleytimetravelaruba.online

Casa Del Mar

Eagle beach
2 BR WK # 19 room # 1205 \$ 7 K
2 BR WK # 19 room # 1217 \$ 7 K
2 BR WK # 19 room # 1117 \$ 7,5 K
2 BR WK # 19 room # 1109\$6,6 K
2 BR WK # 19 room # 1201 \$8,1 K
Call :011-297-630-1307
johnnypaesch@gmail.com
www.halleytimetravelaruba.online

Casa Del Mar

Eagle beach
2 BR WK # 19 room # 1202 \$ 8,1 K
2 BR WK # 19 room # 1302 \$ 8,8 K
2 BR WK # 20 room # 1220 \$ 6 K
2 BR WK # 20 room # 1205\$ 7 K
2 BR WK # 20 room #1303 \$8,8 K
Call :011-297-630-1307
johnnypaesch@gmail.com
www.halleytimetravelaruba.online

HTTA

Time - share resale and Condo
Are you interested in sell your timeshare
Or condo in Aruba
Call the experts 37 years of doing honest
Business on the islands
Call : 011-297-630-1307
johnnypaesch@gmail.com
www.halleytimetravelaruba.online

Property land

Palm Beach 771 m2 (8298,875 sq feet)
Prime location near a condo project
5 min walk to palm beach
Price : \$ 252 ,800 American dollar
Call :011-297-630-1307
johnnypaesch@gmail.com
www.halleytimetravelaruba.online

Property land

Washington Noord 9440 m2 (101611,314 sq feet)
Great for project
Price: \$ 1,9 Million American dollar
Call : 011-297-630-1307
Johnnypaesch@gmail.com
www.halleytimetravelaruba.com

Property land

Shaba Matadera Noord
In a complex Commercial (Motel, Restaurant , Laundry, Mini Market)
3500m2 (37673,686 sq feet)
Price \$ 700 K American dollar
Call: 011-297-630-1307
johnnypaesch@gmail.com
www.halleytimetravelaruba.online

Condo

Pearl Eagle Beach
2 BR , 2 bath \$ 450 K
Le Vent
2 BR , 2 bath \$ 1,2 Million
Call :011-297-630-1307
johnnypaesch@gmail.com
www.halleytimetravelaruba.online



HEALTH

DOCTOR ON DUTY

Oranjestad

Hospital 7:00 pm / 10:00pm
Tel. 527 4000

San Nicolas

Imsan 24 hours
Tel.524 8833

PHARMACY ON DUTY

Oranjestad:

Dakota: Tel. 588 7364
Aloe: Tel. 584 4606

OTHER

Dental Clinic 587 9850
Blood Bank Aruba 587 0002
Urgent Care 586 0448
Walk-In Doctor's Clinic
+297 588 0539

EMERGENCY

Police	100
Oranjestad	527 3140
Noord	527 3200
Sta. Cruz	527 2900
San Nicolas	584 5000
Police Tipline	11141
Ambulancia	911
Fire Dept.	115
Red Cross	582 2219

TAXI SERVICES

Taxi Tas	587 5900
Prof. Taxi	588 0035
Taxi D.T.S.	587 2300
Taxi Serv. Aruba	583 3232
A1 Taxi Serv.	280 2828

TRAVEL INFO

Aruba Airport	524 2424
American Airlines	582 2700
Avianca	588 0059
Jet Blue	588 2244
Surinam	582 7896

AID FOUNDATIONS

FAVI- Visually Impaired
Tel. 582 5051

Alcoholics Anonymous
Tel. 736 2952

Narcotics Anonymous
Tel. 583 8989

Fundacion Contra Violencia
Relacional Tel. 583 5400

Centre for Diabetes
Tel. 524 8888

Child Abuse Prevention
Tel. 582 4433

Quota Club Tel. 525 2672

General Info

Phone Directory Tel. 118



Editor
Caribbean Speed Printers N.V.
Aruba Bank N.V. Acc. #332668
Caribbean Mercantile Bank N.V.
Acc. #23951903
RBC Royal Bank Acc. #1330772

Editors

Pilar Flores
Richard Brooks
Angenette Figuero

Sales

Mark Gomes
Sulaika Croes

Classifieds

classified@cspnv.com

Distribution and Collection

accounting@bondia.com

Social / Website

Juan Luis Pinto

Weststraat 22
T: 582-7800
E: news@arubatoday.com
W: www.arubatoday.com
f @arubatoday



facebook.com/arubatoday/

All creatures great and small in 'Guardians 3'

By JAKE COYLE

AP Film Writer

When Peter "Star-Lord" Quill, while inspecting a murky extraterrestrial region, pressed play on Redbone's "Come and Get Your Love" in the first "Guardians of the Galaxy," it would have been hard to imagine that James Gunn's space opera would ultimately lead to something as sincere, poignant and kinda cornball as the trilogy-ending "Guardians of the Galaxy Vol. 3."

But as Gunn has showed over over the course of these increasingly soupy sci-fi spectacles, the genetically spliced DNA of his chaotic, cartoonish cosmic vision is a double helix of opposites. Breezy '70s rock papers over extreme violence. Cynical exteriors cloak sentimental emotions. A ragtag group of outcasts, more so than even the cast of "Fast and the Furious," talk a lot about "family" and "friends." Against the odds, "Come and get your love" has turned out to be a legit invitation.

"Vol. 3" is a messy, overstuffed finale. But you rarely question whether Gunn's heart is in it. Sometimes it spoils some of that effect by trying too hard to juxtapose tonal extremes,



This image released by Marvel Studios shows, from left, Pom Klementieff as Mantis, Groot (voiced by Vin Diesel), Chris Pratt as Peter Quill/Star-Lord, Dave Bautista as Drax, Karen Gillan as Nebula in a scene from "Guardians of the Galaxy Vol. 3."

and show off its brash juggling act. Yet whatever this sweet, surreal sci-fi shamble is that Gunn has created, everyone here seems to believe ardently in it. And for even a movie that sends a golden-hued Will Poulter shooting through space to the tune of Heart's "Crazy on You," that earnest belief goes a long way.

The song, though, that kicks off "Guardians of the Galaxy Vol. 3" is not an upbeat one. Radiohead's "Creep" casts a sour mood over the Guardians, who we find in a lethargic state of disarray in the spaceport Knowhere following their 2017 "Empire Strikes Back"-esque second chapter.

Whether "Guardians of the Galaxy" is best suited to

strike these solemn notes, or reach for such last-chapter poignancy in "Vol. 3" is debatable.

I've always liked these films at their most cartoonish. Donning a degree of self-importance is probably the most Marvel thing about this "Guardians." Gunn's films which, unlike most of the comic-book studio's releases, are both written and directed by him have always stood out for their distinct lack of Marvel house style. "Guardians 3," unfortunately, has contracted a touch of "Endgame" grandiosity.

The group including Star-Lord (Chris Pratt), Drax the Destroyer (Dave Bautista), Nebula (Karen Gillan) and Groot (voiced by Vin Diesel)

is quickly sent into emergency mode. Adam Warlock (Poulter), an artificial being created by the High Priestess Ayesha (Elizabeth Debicki), comes careening into their lair, leaving Rocket (voiced by Bradley Cooper and played in motion capture by Sean Gunn) on his deathbed. To save Rocket, a cybernetically enhanced raccoon, the Guardians must hurriedly resuscitate him with his original programming. This means traveling to the lab he was created in years before by the High Evolutionary (a sensational Chukwudi Iwuji, an all-time Marvel villain), a Doctor Moreau sort who's been toiling to craft a "perfect" race of hybrid creatures to

populate a copy of planet Earth. As the Guardians seek to infiltrate his realm, "Vol. 3" repeatedly flashes back to Rocket's experience with the High Evolutionary: his transformation from raccoon, his joyful experience with other experimental creations and his harrowing escape.

It's telling that in this "Guardians" swan song that Gunn centers Rocket and less so Quill, whose father-son drama dominated "Vol. 2." (Here, he's mostly in save-my-friend mode when not wrestling with the heartbreak of this version of Zoe Saldana's Gamora. Thanks to some "Avengers" events, she no longer even knows him.)

These are foremost epics of orphanhood about distinctly un-superhuman characters. Mother and father figures float in and out, while the Guardians attract one forlorn figure after another. In "Vol. 3," it's both comical and even a little stirring just how far empathy reaches for all of God's and Marvel's creatures. Gunn has taken a woebe-gone B-team or C-team of comic book oddballs and cast them into a cosmic tapestry of weirdos and misfits, ranging wildly in size, shape, color and dancing ability. □



This image released by ECM shows "Our Daily Bread" by Joe Lovano's Trio Tapestry.

Associated Press

Review: Lovano's trio is post-free jazz in a chamber setting

By STEVEN WINE

Associated Press

The latest album from saxophonist Joe Lovano's Trio Tapestry has almost no pulse but plenty of heart and soul.

"Our Daily Bread," released Friday, is post-free jazz in a chamber setting, and absorbing despite the lack of a bass or beat. Lovano's eight original compositions leave plenty of space for individual explorations by the sax man, drummer Carmen Castaldi and pianist Marilyn Crispell, even when they're all playing at the

same time.

Look elsewhere for swing, torrents of notes or chord changes. There is momentum to the music, however, as the trio pushes jazz forward, using silence as an instrument to build space between the players and what they play. The result is a set of tunes that float, undulating and unhurried, creating a mood of reflection but also liberation.

Lovano's minimalist meditations include the flowing and lyrical title cut, which almost finds a steady rhythm, and the chromatic

"All Twelve," framed by an angular, edgy melody. Graceful interplay drives the romantic sax-piano duet "Le Petit Opportun," and Lovano's golden tenor tone is especially moving on "One for Charlie," a slow, sad solo in tribute to the late bassist Charlie Haden.

On the final cut, "Crystal Ball," Crispell falls into unison with Lovano, whose last note is perhaps the album's longest, as if he's reluctant to let go. This challenging music is worth lingering over. □

'Sick of him': Chastain drawing ire of fellow NASCAR drivers

By DAVE SKRETTA

AP Sports Writer

KANSAS CITY, Kan. (AP) —

Ross Chastain used to be known primarily as the driver with the family roots in watermelon farming, and whose victory lane celebrations usually involved standing on the roof of his car and smashing a melon to pieces on the pavement. Now, he's becoming known for an aggressive driving style that is repeatedly rubbing others the wrong way.

The latest incident came Sunday at Kansas Speedway, where Chastain first earned a torrent of expletives over the radio from Kyle Busch, then squeezed Noah Gragson into the wall with about 60 laps to go. The latter dust-up led to a wild scene on pit road, where Chastain threw a haymaker at Gragson and the two had to be pulled apart by security.

"I'm sick and tired of it," Gragson said afterward, while dropping a few expletives of his own. "The guy runs into everyone. When you have guys like Chase Elliott and other guys telling you to beat his ass, everyone is just sick of him."

The incident came six days after the NASCAR Cup Se-



A fan, left, takes a photo with Ross Chastain, right, before a NASCAR Cup Series auto race at Kansas Speedway in Kansas City, Kan., Sunday, May 7, 2023.

Associated Press

ries ran its rain-delayed race at Dover, and Chastain got into the back of Brennan Poole, sending him up the track and taking Kyle Larson out of the race in the process. Larson vented over his radio about Chastain while Poole was more pointed in his criticism during a televised interview.

"I haven't really seen the replay, but it felt like I just got ran over really for no reason 80 laps into the race," he said. "Doesn't make any sense to me. I

guess that's something he's been known to do here recently. Probably needs to get his butt whooped."

Last month, Denny Hamlin had a \$50,000 fine and 25-point penalty upheld after he acknowledged on his weekly podcast that he intentionally wrecked Chastain on the last lap of the Phoenix race in March. "I got no respect from him," said Hamlin, who won Sunday's race at Kansas, "so I chose not to give him any." Chastain, who was fifth

at Kansas and leads the NASCAR Cup Series points standings, was even criticized by Hall of Famer Rusty Wallace, who was a guest analyst on the Fox broadcast at Dover: "He's got a steering wheel in his hand and a brake and a gas (pedal) at his feet. He could have controlled that a little better. That was a little too aggressive, in my opinion." Back in Wallace's day, it wouldn't have taken long for someone to retaliate. Dale Earnhardt had a

reputation for policing the way drivers acted on the track, and many others from NASCAR's heyday did the same thing.

Yet the furor also begs the question: Is Chastain exactly what NASCAR needs these days? The series has struggled to attract audiences, and sections of empty seats at Kansas Speedway on a bright, sunny Sunday were the latest evidence of it. Many drivers have told The Associated Press that one of the series' problems is the lack of identifiable stars in the Cup Series. Perhaps Chastain can embrace the role of the villain. There's a fine line to walk between creating drama and creating havoc, though. Take the incident with Busch on Sunday. Chastain was racing him hard shortly before Busch crashed out of the race. Chastain had nothing to do with that and the two-time series champion often regarded as something of a villain himself lit into him over the radio.

"He's pissed because I'm pissed that he races like an (expletive)," Busch told his team, "and so I doored him twice down the backstretch like, 'This is your warning, boy.'" □

Matthews takes Giro 3rd stage, Evenepoel keeps lead

MELFI, Italy (AP) — Michael Matthews won a wet and long third stage of the Giro d'Italia on Monday while pre-race favorite Remco Evenepoel extended his overall lead.

Matthews, who rides for Team Jayco-AlUla, edged out Mads Pedersen and Kaden Groves in a bunch sprint on the final kick up to the line. It was the Australian cyclist's third Giro stage win and a first since 2015.

"They (his team) were fully committed for me to win the stage,"

Matthews said. "It's been such a roller coaster this year. Now already on stage three with a stage win. That's more than I could ever dream of."

"I heard that Pedersen was

dropped on the climb so I was hoping he would be a little bit pinned for the sprint. I just knew I needed to go a bit early, get the jump on them, and it worked out." The drizzle, especially on the second half of the 213-kilometer (132-mile) route south from Vasto to Melfi, caused several crashes but nothing that appeared too serious.

Evenepoel finished safely in the peloton and gained bonus seconds in the intermediate sprint edging Primož Roglič to extend his lead to 32 seconds over João Almeida, who moved into second despite being involved in a crash.

"We were just there, we wanted to take the downhill in the first positions be-

cause the rain made the roads wet and tricky," said Evenepoel, who rides for Soudal Quick-Step.

"If the seconds are there to grab, we should not be afraid to grab them. One more second on Primoz and three on the rest is good, especially after quite an easy day and a hectic final."

Evenepoel has worn the pink jersey since storming to victory in the opening time trial on Saturday.

Roglič, who is considered Evenepoel's strongest challenger, moved up to third but was still 44 seconds behind the Belgian.

The stage was one of the longest and flattest of the Giro, along with two categorized climbs towards the



Australia's Michael Matthews crosses the finish line to win the third stage of the Giro d'Italia cycling race from Vasto to Melfi, Italy, Monday, May 8, 2023.

Associated Press

end.

In contrast, Tuesday's fourth stage has hardly any flat sections on the 175-kilometer (109-mile) route from Venosa to Lago Laceno.

There are also three category two climbs, including one just before the finish.

The Giro ends in Rome on May 28. □

What is horse racing doing to prevent catastrophic injuries?

By **BETH HARRIS**
AP Racing Writer

The deaths of seven horses at the home of the Kentucky Derby has intensified the debate over the safety of horse racing.

Two of the deaths occurred as the result of race injuries on Derby day, when more than 150,000 people jammed Churchill Downs.

"While each incident reported has been unique, it is important to note that there has been no discernible pattern detected in the injuries sustained," the track said in a statement that called the incidents "unacceptable."

In recent years, the industry has instituted a series of veterinary and medication reforms, which led to the fatality rate dropping.

Here's a look at what horse racing is doing to try to prevent injuries and deaths.

HOW COMMON ARE INJURIES AND DEATHS?

The deaths at Churchill Downs gained greater attention because they occurred in the week leading up to the Kentucky Derby.

There have been spates of deaths in recent years, most notably 30 at Santa Anita in California in 2019. Those led to a series of safety reforms that spread nationally. Protocol requires a necropsy when a horse dies on-track, and a review of contributing factors, vet records and interviews with stakehold-



Mage (8), with Javier Castellano aboard, wins the 149th running of the Kentucky Derby horse race at Churchill Downs Saturday, May 6, 2023, in Louisville, Ky.

ers to learn the cause and what, if anything, could have been done to prevent it.

"It's hard to explain and say it's going to happen once in a while," said Mike Repole, co-owner of scratched early Kentucky Derby favorite Forte, "but the reality is, unfortunately, it's going to happen once in a while."

California and New York have public databases that catalogue equine injuries and fatalities; Kentucky does not. According to a database kept by the Jockey Club, which oversees the breed registry for thoroughbreds in the United States and Canada, more than 7,200 horses

died in races from 2009-21. The large animals' spindly legs take a lot of concussive force.

WHY ARE HORSES EUTHANIZED AFTER A LIMB INJURY?

A leg injury in a horse can lead to complications as the other legs try to bear the pressure of an animal that weighs about 1,100 pounds. The bones in the leg don't just break, they often shatter completely, making it extremely difficult to repair or restore to their original form.

Unlike humans who can be put on bedrest, horses are meant to spend most of their time moving.

Horses at the track are brought out of their stalls daily to either race, do a

timed workout or simply walk several laps around the inside of their barn. They're also bathed and groomed.

Besides being resistant to having their legs restricted, horses can develop pressure ulcers if they lie down too long. Horses sleep standing up and don't worry about falling because of a system of tendons and ligaments that allow them to lock the major joints in their legs. If a horse cannot move its legs, the animal's blood circulation diminishes. Being confined to one place for an extended period of time can affect a horse's mental health as well.

ARE THERE TREATMENT AL-

TERNATIVES?

Costs for surgery or other treatments can be considerably high, although deep-pocketed owners of expensive thoroughbreds will often go to extreme lengths to preserve their investment.

Even with treatment, a horse's chances of complete recovery can be slim. In order to spare the animal additional pain and stress, it is usually euthanized.

WHAT IS RACING DOING TO ADDRESS INJURIES?

Whether it's everyday races or the Triple Crown series Kentucky Derby, Preakness and Belmont horses undergo multiple, comprehensive vet exams and observations to ensure their fitness to run. Researchers at the University of Kentucky are working to identify a screening tool that can be used before races to identify horses at increased risk of injury. Funding for the study was provided by the Kentucky Horse Racing Commission's Equine Drug Research Council.

The research involves analyzing blood samples from racehorses — both injured and non-injured — at tracks nationwide to see if there are changes in messenger RNA and whether there's anything that consistently differentiates horses that suffer a catastrophic injury, according to a 2021 article in Trainer magazine. □

Colts owner warns NFL teams about tampering with Andrew Luck



Indianapolis Colts quarterback Andrew Luck shakes hands with Indianapolis Colts owner Jim Irsay after a news conference following the team's NFL preseason football game against the Chicago Bears, Saturday, Aug. 24, 2019, in Indianapolis.

Associated Press

INDIANAPOLIS (AP) — The Indianapolis Colts want other NFL teams to know they consider contacting former quarterback Andrew Luck or his representatives to be tampering.

Team owner Jim Irsay made it clear in a Twitter post late Sunday night following a weekend report from ESPN that the Washington Commanders attempted to find out in 2022 whether the four-time Pro Bowler would consider making a comeback. Luck retired abruptly in August 2019 at age 29 with three years left on his contract. Irsay even allowed Luck to

keep the full \$24.8 million in bonus money instead of trying to collect some of that money. So Irsay responded with a warning. "If any NFL Team attempted to contact Andrew Luck (or any associate of him)... to play for their Franchise it would be a clear Violation of the League's Tampering Policy," Irsay wrote.

A message left by The Associated Press seeking comment from the NFL was not immediately returned.

Luck has shown no indication he wants to play again and when he returned to Lucas Oil Stadium for the college football champi-

onship game in early 2022, the No. 1 overall draft pick in 2012 appeared to have slimmed down significantly from his playing weight of 240 pounds. He's shown no interest in making a comeback even as the Colts spent years searching for Luck's replacement. Whomever starts this year's season opener will be the seventh different starter in seven years for Indy.

The report came less than two weeks after Indy drafted former Florida star Anthony Richardson with the No. 4 overall pick, hopeful he'll be the new franchise quarterback. □